

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1. – 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ agglutination immunoassay ~~as claimed in Claim 26,~~  
comprising a polypeptide, wherein said immunoassay comprises:

(a) preparing a nucleic acid-bound polypeptide by binding a nucleic acid to said polypeptide through a nucleic acid-binding motif in said polypeptide, and fixing said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide on the surface of particles;

(b) contacting the particles obtained in (a) with a sample, wherein said sample may contain an antibody to an antigen, wherein said antigen is said polypeptide fixed on the surface of solid particles; and

(c) measuring agglutination images of said particles caused by formation of antigen-antibody complex

wherein said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide, and  
wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid-binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The agglutination immunoassay according to Claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

33. - 40 (Canceled)

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Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-24 were previously canceled.

Claims 25-27, 29, 31, and 33-40 are now canceled.

Claim 28 has been amended.

The amendment of Claims 28 is supported by original Claims 25, 26, and 28.

No new matter has been entered by the present amendments.